

subject. Our intelligent Springfield correspondent says that the President elect, although he still indulges to a modified extent in the lively jokes and sallies of wit and humor which characterized him during the first two or three weeks after his election, yet that he is becoming much more serious and reflective.

**"THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH."**—The right of free speech, like every other right, may be abused and turned into licentiousness. That it is abused by abolitionists to the subversion of the very constitution which guarantees it, we have abundant evidence. Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips and George W. Curtis have so abused it that it is necessary to employ the police and military force to protect their persons from violence in the three principal cities of the North. This treatment is bitterly complained of by the organs and abettors of the orators.

A great outcry has been raised by the republican journals and orators against the Southern population because they take the law into their own hands and execute summary justice upon incendiary abolitionists who try to sow the seeds of servile insurrection among the negro population. But when this question comes home to the business and bosom of the Northern people, and they find that the harangues of the abolition crusaders have brought the Union to the verge of dissolution, and vast multitudes of the population to poverty and starvation, they begin to think it is time to put a stop to them; and the fears of the orators go beyond the intentions of the people, and hence the employment of the police.

The idea that the amendment to the constitution which establishes liberty of speech confers the right of licentiousness, and "secures to every citizen an absolute right to speak or write or print whatever he pleases, without any responsibility, public or private," is, says Judge Story, "a supposition too wild to be indulged by any reasonable man; for that would be to allow every citizen a right to destroy at his pleasure the reputation, the peace, the property and even the personal safety of every other citizen, and to stir up sedition, rebellion, and even treason, against the government itself, in the wantonness of his passions, or the corruption of his heart." This is just what the emissaries of abolition have been doing both at the South and the North, and the people of neither section seem disposed to give them free scope any longer.

**THE POLICE AND THE BURGLARS.**—No one can complain that the newspapers are deficient in reports of burglaries committed in the city, as they generally average about two or three a day. But, for all that, there is not a morning paper that several heavy cases of burglaries are not reported to the police captains which never find their way into the papers at all, and, moreover, which nobody ever hears a word about after the aggrieved party makes his report at the station house. This curious fact arises from the system pursued by the police, when a burglary is reported, usually reply, "Say nothing about it and we will catch the fellows and recover your property." But it happens that "the fellows" are never caught, nor the stolen property returned. We heard of a burglary on Friday night last in Eighth avenue, where no less than \$2,000 worth of property was stolen, but no account of it was published. It was reported by the owner of the store to the captain of police, and no doubt the fact was carefully stored away in his memory, but that was a poor consideration for the man who lost his goods. The truth is that the police are ashamed of the great number of burglaries committed, and they think more of hushing them up and keeping the facts from the public than of preventing them or detecting the thieves, which is only another evidence of their inefficiency.

**THE LATE FRAUDS IN WASHINGTON.**—The republican newspapers are making a great fuss about the recent robbery in the Interior Department, and the sage conclusion they seem to arrive at, is that it is about time that "Honest Old Abe" took the reins of government in his hands. This would be all very well, perhaps, if one party was less corrupt and demoralized than the other; but it so happens that it is not, and the people will have to suffer as much from the republicans as from the democrats. If the republicans have not stolen as much as the democrats, it is because they had neither the power nor the opportunity up to this time, but we find that wherever they are in office throughout the States they have always had their hands deep in the public treasury, and we observe that they never came out empty. We have published enough of corruption, fraud, defalcations and lobby swindling on the part of the republicans for the past year to alarm the least scrupulous nation in the world. We have not the least expectation, then, that the new regime will establish a better condition of things at Washington or throughout the country, unless Congress does something to put a check upon fraud and corruption in the public departments, so as to enable "Honest Old Abe" to carry out an honest administration of affairs. There is nothing in the character of the republican party to base any hope upon in this respect.

**LETTERS MUST BE PREPAID.**—The large number of letters that weekly find their way to the dead letter office at Washington show that it is by no means sufficiently well known that the Post Office exacts full prepayment of everything it carries. It is still less widely understood that every letter posted in any of the lampost boxes, or at any other place than the Post Office building, must bear a one cent stamp, in addition to the ordinary full postage, to entitle it to be forwarded, and that in the absence of that extra one cent stamp the unfortunate epistle is certain never to reach the party to whom it is addressed, but is simply consigned to the dead letter office alluded to, where it is opened, and if not found to contain money is consigned to oblivion.

It would be difficult to estimate the immense loss, confusion and misunderstanding which this system of compulsory prepayment has resulted in, through letters not reaching their appointed destinations. That this Post Office regulation is a source of incalculable inconvenience to the public cannot be denied; and that something of the kind was attempted in England and negatively by the unanimous voice of the people, we have a lively recollection. Yet the obnoxious English system was, while it lasted, far preferable to our own, for the unpaid letters were opened immediately and returned to the senders. With us the sender is left in ignorance of the fate of his letter. Either

let the Postmaster General repeal this regulation—and the sooner it is done the better—or let the public be more careful in affixing the necessary amount of postage. It is nothing less than melancholy at present to contemplate the evil results of an uncalculated exaction on the one side, and ignorance or carelessness on the other. Most of the letters that find their way to the dead letter office have a three or one cent stamp attached, and have been detained merely for the one cent lampost box charge, which is an exaction that ought never to have been instituted. In England every town has several, and in some cases hundreds, of branch post offices and pillar boxes, but there is no extra postage required for collection from any of these, and the single rate to any part of the United Kingdom is only two cents—an English penny.

**THE SHOE PINCHING IN NEW ENGLAND.**—The political convulsion is beginning to press heavily on the manufacturing towns and cities of New England, thus demonstrating that the curses which have been hurled from the violent abolition section against the South, the constitution and the Union are coming home, like chickens, to roost. The shoe business, which may be considered the staple trade of Massachusetts, we perceive, has received a terrible shock. Many of the factories have suspended work entirely, several houses in Natick have failed, and nearly all have been compelled to reduce their force of workmen one-third or one-half. The foundries and machine shops of Connecticut, too, are in a similar condition; establishment after establishment is dismissing its operatives and closing its doors, and this is but the beginning of the end. The republican politicians will find out how much easier it is to demolish than to construct. They have broken down all the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country—turned thousands of people out of employment, but they will learn how difficult it is to restore prosperity and build up what they have reduced to ruin.

#### Fatal Accident.

ALBANY, Dec. 25, 1860.  
This morning, while Mr. Francis D. Holbrook, leather inspector, was at work in Humphrey's shoe store, he fell through a hatchway, between twenty and thirty feet, and was almost instantly killed.

#### THE WASHINGTON FRAUD.

**Mr. Russell Committed to Prison in Default of \$500,000 Bail—Description of the Stolen State Bonds, &c., &c., &c.**

WASHINGTON, December 25, 1860.  
W. H. Russell, implicated in the robbery of the Interior Department, arrived here from New York yesterday morning. He was conveyed immediately to the district jail, but by consent of United States Deputy Marshal Phillips, he was allowed to proceed to his residence in F Street, where Justice Goddard, at the instance of the Cabinet, excepting Gov. Floyd, appeared and required the defendant to give bail for future examination in the sum of \$500,000.

The counsel of Russell asked the Justice to allow them the space of half an hour to endeavor to procure the required sum, which was considered exceedingly excessive, although much less than the value of the property of which the government has been robbed, yet, when compared with the comparatively small sum exacted of Bailey, the alleged principal in the robbery, the complaint of Russell's counsel is reasonable. The Marshal refused the delay asked for, and Russell, at two o'clock this afternoon, was remanded to jail.

His counsel to-day were Mr. Carlisle, Samuel Chilton and Walter Davidson, of this city; Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, and James Hooper, ex-United States Senator from Virginia. These gentlemen were in consultation with Russell, in jail, this evening.

He was also visited by numerous personal friends, among whom were most of the Missouri Congressional delegation, including Senator Green, and Mr. Parrott, the delegate from Kansas.

The case will be brought before the Grand Jury of the district at as early a day as possible.

The acceptance given by Secretary Floyd to Russell, upon which the latter hypothecated, are said to be valueless unless the service required in them to be rendered to the government was performed.

The theory of Russell's friends is, that Bailey, who has turned State's evidence, and is a relative of Governor Floyd's, intends to shield himself, and wear the burden of the offense against Russell and the member of a banking house in this city. A statement is made in connection with the above, that if Bailey does this Russell will tell all he knows, which will involve not only the Secretary of War but other government officials high in authority.

The two million leak in the Treasury is still a mystery. I learn from a responsible source to-night that additional developments will be made to-morrow in the Interior Department.

J. R. Simpson, of New York, will act as President of the California Pony Express Company. Packages were dispatched to-day, and the business of the company goes on as usual, under the charge of J. T. Caldwell, the agent here.

**Notice.**  
Notice is hereby given that the following described bonds having been unlawfully abstracted from the Department of the Interior, at Washington, all persons are cautioned against purchasing the same or making any loans or advances thereon, and that steps are being taken to stop the payment thereof, and of the coupons becoming due after January next.

**TENNESSEE SIX PER CENT BONDS, FOR \$1,000 EACH, INTEREST PAYABLE JANUARY 1 AND JULY 1.**

No.	No.	No.
5,703	5,428	5,452
5,704	5,429	5,453
5,705	5,430	5,454
5,706	5,431	5,455
5,707	5,432	5,456
5,708	5,433	5,457
5,709	5,434	5,458
5,710	5,435	5,459
5,711	5,436	5,460
5,712	5,437	5,461
5,713	5,438	5,462
5,714	5,439	5,463
5,715	5,440	5,464
5,716	5,441	5,465
5,717	5,442	5,466
5,718	5,443	5,467
5,719	5,444	5,468
5,720	5,445	5,469
5,721	5,446	5,470
5,722	5,447	5,471
5,723	5,448	5,472
5,724	5,449	5,473
5,725	5,450	5,474
5,726	5,451	5,475
5,727	5,452	5,476
5,728	5,453	5,477
5,729	5,454	5,478
5,730	5,455	5,479
5,731	5,456	5,480
5,732	5,457	5,481
5,733	5,458	5,482
5,734	5,459	5,483
5,735	5,460	5,484
5,736	5,461	5,485
5,737	5,462	5,486
5,738	5,463	5,487
5,739	5,464	5,488
5,740	5,465	5,489
5,741	5,466	5,490
5,742	5,467	5,491
5,743	5,468	5,492
5,744	5,469	5,493
5,745	5,470	5,494
5,746	5,471	5,495
5,747	5,472	5,496
5,748	5,473	5,497
5,749	5,474	5,498
5,750	5,475	5,499
5,751	5,476	5,500
5,752	5,477	5,501
5,753	5,478	5,502
5,754	5,479	5,503
5,755	5,480	5,504
5,756	5,481	5,505
5,757	5,482	5,506
5,758	5,483	5,507
5,759	5,484	5,508
5,760	5,485	5,509
5,761	5,486	5,510
5,762	5,487	5,511
5,763	5,488	5,512
5,764	5,489	5,513
5,765	5,490	5,514
5,766	5,491	5,515
5,767	5,492	5,516
5,768	5,493	5,517
5,769	5,494	5,518
5,770	5,495	5,519
5,771	5,496	5,520
5,772	5,497	5,521
5,773	5,498	5,522
5,774	5,499	5,523
5,775	5,500	5,524
5,776	5,501	5,525
5,777	5,502	5,526
5,778	5,503	5,527
5,779	5,504	5,528
5,780	5,505	5,529
5,781	5,506	5,530
5,782	5,507	5,531
5,783	5,508	5,532
5,784	5,509	5,533
5,785	5,510	5,534
5,786	5,511	5,535
5,787	5,512	5,536
5,788	5,513	5,537
5,789	5,514	5,538
5,790	5,515	5,539
5,791	5,516	5,540
5,792	5,517	5,541
5,793	5,518	5,542
5,794	5,519	5,543
5,795	5,520	5,544
5,796	5,521	5,545
5,797	5,522	5,546
5,798	5,523	5,547
5,799	5,524	5,548
5,800	5,525	5,549
5,801	5,526	5,550
5,802	5,527	5,551
5,803	5,528	5,552
5,804	5,529	5,553
5,805	5,530	5,554
5,806	5,531	5,555
5,807	5,532	5,556
5,808	5,533	5,557
5,809	5,534	5,558
5,810	5,535	5,559
5,811	5,536	5,560
5,812	5,537	5,561
5,813	5,538	5,562
5,814	5,539	5,563
5,815	5,540	5,564
5,816	5,541	5,565
5,817	5,542	5,566
5,818	5,543	5,567
5,819	5,544	5,568
5,820	5,545	5,569
5,821	5,546	5,570
5,822	5,547	5,571
5,823	5,548	5,572
5,824	5,549	5,573
5,825	5,550	5,574
5,826	5,551	5,575
5,827	5,552	5,576
5,828	5,553	5,577
5,829	5,554	5,578
5,830	5,555	5,579
5,831	5,556	5,580
5,832	5,557	5,581
5,833	5,558	5,582
5,834	5,559	5,583
5,835	5,560	5,584
5,836	5,561	5,585
5,837	5,562	5,586
5,838	5,563	5,587
5,839	5,564	5,588
5,840	5,565	5,589
5,841	5,566	5,590
5,842	5,567	5,591
5,843	5,568	5,592
5,844	5,569	5,593
5,845	5,570	5,594
5,846	5,571	5,595
5,847	5,572	5,596
5,848	5,573	5,597
5,849	5,574	5,598
5,850	5,575	5,599
5,851	5,576	5,600
5,852	5,577	5,601
5,853	5,578	5,602
5,854	5,579	5,603
5,855	5,580	5,604
5,856	5,581	5,605
5,857	5,582	5,606
5,858	5,583	5,607
5,859	5,584	5,608
5,860	5,585	5,609
5,861	5,586	5,610
5,862	5,587	5,611
5,863	5,588	5,612
5,864	5,589	5,613
5,865	5,590	5,614
5,866	5,591	5,615
5,867	5,592	5,616
5,868	5,593	5,617
5,869	5,594	5,618
5,870	5,595	5,619
5,871	5,596	5,620
5,872	5,597	5,621
5,873	5,598	5,622
5,874	5,599	5,623
5,875	5,600	5,624
5,876	5,601	5,625
5,877	5,602	5,626
5,878	5,603	5,627
5,879	5,604	5,628
5,880	5,605	5,629
5,881	5,606	5,630
5,882	5,607	5,631
5,883	5,608	5,632
5,884	5,609	5,633
5,885	5,610	5,634
5,886	5,611	5,635
5,887	5,612	5,636
5,888	5,613	5,637
5,889	5,614	5,638
5,890	5,615	5,639
5,891	5,616	5,640
5,892	5,617	5,641
5,893	5,618	5,642
5,894	5,619	5,643
5,895	5,620	5,644
5,896	5,621	5,645
5,897	5,622	5,646
5,898	5,623	5,647
5,899	5,624	5,648
5,900	5,625	5,649

**SIX PER CENT STATE OF MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS AND IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROAD BONDS, FOR \$1,000 EACH, INTEREST PAYABLE JANUARY 1 AND JULY 1.**

No.	No.	No.
1,806	1,811	1,816
1,807	1,812	1,817
1,808	1,813	1,818
1,809	1,814	1,819
1,810	1,815	1,820
1,811	1,816	1,821
1,812	1,817	1,822
1,813	1,818	1,823
1,814	1,819	1,824
1,815	1,820	1,825
1,816	1,821	1,826
1,817	1,822	1,827
1,818	1,823	1,828
1,819	1,824	1,829
1,820	1,825	1,830
1,821	1,826	1,831
1,822	1,827	1,832
1,823	1,828	1,833
1,824	1,829	1,834
1,825	1,830	1,835
1,826	1,831	1,836
1,827	1,832	1,837
1,828	1,833	1,838
1,829	1,834	1,839
1,830	1,835	1,840
1,831	1,836	1,841
1,832	1,837	1,842
1,833	1,838	1,843
1,834	1,839	1,844
1,835	1,840	1,845
1,836	1,841	1,846
1,837	1,842	1,847
1,838	1,843	1,848
1,839	1,844	1,849
1,840	1,845	1,850
1,841	1,846	1,851
1,842	1,847	1,852
1,843	1,848	1,853
1,844	1,849	1,854
1,845	1,850	1,855
1,846	1,851	1,856
1,847	1,852	1,857
1,848	1,853	1,858
1,849	1,854	1,859
1,850	1,855	1,860
1,851	1,856	1,861
1,852	1,857	1,862
1,853	1,858	1,863
1,854	1,859	1,864
1,855	1,860	1,865
1,856	1,861	1,866
1,857	1,862	1,867
1,858	1,863	1,868
1,859	1,864	1,869
1,860	1,865	1,870
1,861	1,866	1,871
1,862	1,867	1,872
1,863	1,868	1,873
1,864	1,869	1,874
1,865	1,870	1,875
1,866	1,871	1,876
1,867	1,872	